

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Pc #32
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 11:29:53 AM

For file

Alisa Somera

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**From:** Cabrera, Stephanie (BOS) <[stephanie.cabrera@sfgov.org](mailto:stephanie.cabrera@sfgov.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:33 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors (BOS) <[board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <[angela.calvillo@sfgov.org](mailto:angela.calvillo@sfgov.org)>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>; Mchugh, Eileen (BOS) <[eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org](mailto:eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pc #32

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**From:** Sevana Panosian <[sevanapanosian@icloud.com](mailto:sevanapanosian@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:26:31 PM  
**To:** Cabrera, Stephanie (BOS) <[stephanie.cabrera@sfgov.org](mailto:stephanie.cabrera@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** Pc #32

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Good afternoon,

My name is Sevana Panosian-I am a native of San Francisco and active member of the San Francisco ARMENIAN community -I am here to address the resolution condemning Azerbaijan's Blockade of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) and ongoing human rights violations. I'm also an English teacher and volunteer with two NGOs currently supporting teachers in Armenia- teach for Armenia and hidden roads initiative, which place and support teachers in some of the border regions of Armenia, and has teachers currently working with the students in artsakh under dire circumstances- no heat for the children, no food, and yet, attempting to maintain a semblance of normalcy under the humanitarian threat by Azerbaijan.

2. First I want to thank all of you for continuously supporting the Republic of Artsakh and the 120,000 Armenians living in their ancestral homelands.

3. The blockade of the Lachin Corridor started December 12th and is entering its 58th day cutting off food, medicine, fuel, and other vital supplies. Imagine my colleagues teaching English in freezing conditions - just yesterday they had to cancel recess so the children wouldn't exert energy and get more hungry due to the lack of food.

4. Furthermore, the Armenian American community in the San Francisco Bay Area is still recovering from the devastating and unprecedented hate crimes that took place in 2020 against my church, Saint Gregory ARMENIAN Apostolic church, and kzv ARMENIAN school the school my children attended. I'm still shocked that these hateful attacks are open cases.

5. Congress is introducing a bipartisan resolution to take immediate steps to (1) demand the immediate re-opening of the Lachin Corridor and access to Nagorno-Karabakh; and (2) provide humanitarian assistance for the Armenian people impacted by the Azerbaijani blockade of the Lachin Corridor, including food, supplies and medical assistance; and (3) end all United States military and economic assistance to Azerbaijan pursuant to Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and take all necessary steps to hold the Azerbaijani regime accountable for its crimes, including sanctions.

**The current blockade of Artsakh is also impossible to**

misinterpret as anything other than genocidal, meant to starve Armenians and force them out of Artsakh. If it weren't obvious enough from their regular shut-downs of vital utilities like gas, power and internet access, and now complete isolation from the outside world.

I ask that the Board support the current resolution in support of artsakh - I thank the seven members who have already supported this and have dedicated themselves to speaking up for human rights, and ask all of you for unanimous support for Artsakh, and the San Francisco ARMENIAN community which has been an active part of the fabric of our great city.

Thank you, Sevana Panosian

Sent from my iPhone